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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/894,689	06/27/2001	Shigeyoshi Hirashima	450100-03261	6422

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EXAMINER	
POON, KING Y	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/894,689	HIRASHIMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	King Y. Poon	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 June 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *27 June 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sherer et al (US 6,115,376).

Regarding claims 1, 6: Sherer teaches a connection apparatus for automatically connecting a connection source (e.g., end stations 11, 12, fig. 1) to a predetermined connection destination (intermediate device, fig. 1); wherein said connection source comprises: information about said predetermined connection destination (MAC address being stored in the table for a particular port of the intermediate device, column 6, lines 15-25); and connecting means (processor 42, column 5, lines 35-40) for making a connection request (to get access to the network, column 6,lines 35-42) to said predetermined connection destination based on said information about said predetermined connection destination (column 6,lines 19-25) and, given a permission, for automatically connecting to said connection destination (allowing communication packet to get through/allowing the end station to access the network, column 6,lines 20-45); said connection request including a connection source identification (source

address, column 6,lines 20-25) for identifying said connection source; and wherein said predetermined connection destination includes plural connection source identifications (MAC addresses in the table, column 6, lines 20-25) for identifying a plurality of connection sources; the predetermined connection destination comprises: receiving means (port, fig. 2) for receiving said connection request from said connection source judging means (the program of the CPU, column 5,lines 20-25, that performed the step disclosed at column 6, lines 19-22) which, upon interpreting said connection request, judges whether said connection source is a predetermined connection source or not by checking said connection source identification against said plural connection source identifications; and permission granting means (the program of the CPU that accept the communication packet, column 6, line 22) which, if said judging means judges said connection source to be a predetermined connection source, grants connection permission to said connection source (not preventing the end station to access the network, column 6, lines 39-42).

Regarding claims 2, 7, Sherer teaches a connection apparatus wherein said connection source is connected to said connection destination without intervention of an Internet service provider being contracted (fig. 1).

Regarding claims 11, 12: Sherer teaches a computer readable medium (column 5,lines 20-25) storing a program to control the connection apparatus as discussed in claims 1, 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3, 8, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sherer et al (US 6,115,376) as applied to claims 1, 6, 11 above, and further in view of well-known prior art.

Regarding claims 3, 8: Sherer teaches wherein said connection request constitutes a request for connection to Internet (16, fig. 1, destination of packet, column 4, lines 15-25) as well as a request for connection to said receiving means (see discussion of claims 1).

Sherer does not teach connecting to Internet requires connecting to an Internet service provider.

However, it is well known in the art that most users get Internet access through Internet service provider.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Sherer to include: a request for connection to an Internet service provider such that users can gain access to Internet.

Regarding claim 13: Sherer teaches a computer readable medium (column 5,lines 20-25) storing a program to control the connection apparatus as discussed in claim 3.

5. Claims 4, 9, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sherer et al (US 6,115,376) as applied to claims 1, 6, 11 above, and further in view of Wadsworth et al (US 5,606,671).

Regarding claims 4, 9: Sherer does not teach what the end station is.

Wadsworth teaches it is well known in the art to have a printer (fig. 1, column 4,lines 27-40) used as a communication end station having a network interface card connected to a network for communicating with other devices.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Sherer to include: applying Sherer's technique to a printer (the end station being a printer).

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Sherer by the teaching of Wadsworth because it would have provide network security for a printer network as taught by Sherer, column 2,lines 54-60.

Regarding claim 14: Sherer teaches a computer readable medium (column 5,lines 20-25) storing a program to control the connection apparatus as discussed in claim 4.

6. Claims 5, 10, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sherer et al (US 6,115,376) and Wadsworth et al (US 5,606,671) as applied to claims 4, 9, 14 above, and further in view of Motoyama (US 5,774,678).

Regarding claims 5, 10: Sherer does not teach wherein the printer is connected to the predetermined connection destination using a trigger signal issued upon initial power up.

Motoyama, in the same area of communication using network, teaches a printer (printer, abstract, 10, fig. 1) is connected to the predetermined connection destination using a trigger signal (signal disclosed in fig. 5, column 5, lines 1-5) issued upon initial power up (column 3, lines 3-8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Sherer to include: wherein the printer is connected to the predetermined connection destination using a trigger signal issued upon initial power up.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Sherer by the teaching of Motoyama because it would have allowed the printer to be connected to the network as soon as the printer is ready to be used or communicated with.

Regarding claim 15: Sherer teaches a computer readable medium (column 5,lines 20-25) storing a program to control the connection apparatus as discussed in claim 5.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Please see detailed office action.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is 571-272-7440. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

September 7, 2005

KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER